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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
URUGUAY

IPF: (1992-96) $ 4 728 000

(URU/91/012) - Technical Assistance to the Social Infrastructure Programme (Supplementary Assistance)

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	5 March 1992
Expected duration:	50 months
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Office of Budget and Planning
Government cost sharing:	$ 2 571 400
Previous UNDP contribution:	$ 120 000 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$ 2 691 400

Project background

The above-mentioned project corresponds to one of the fundamental priorities of Uruguay's Fifth Country Programme, which is to "ameliorate the situation of poverty of a large part of the population and compensate the implicit social costs resulting from the fiscal adjustment and reduction in public expenditure".

In the past few years the Uruguayan society has experienced a general impoverishment of the population which has been reinforced by the unequal distribution of income and assets in a society which has historically been characterized by economic and social conditions parallel to those prevailing in Europe. The clearest indicator of the diminishing quality of life has been the continuing deterioration of the social services, particularly in the areas of housing, health and education. The internal migration towards the capital city, Montevideo, has contributed additional pressure on basic social services such as education and health, especially since the necessary investments in basic urban infrastructure have not kept pace with population growth and migrations. To this has to be added the need to ameliorate the negative short-term effects, the current cuts and reallocation of resources on employment opportunities.

In view of the above, the Government requested UNDP assistance to provide technical co-operation for the Programme for Social Investment (PRIS) as the mechanism for an overall recasting of social expenditure which will be provided under the project (URU/92/001) Technical Co-operation for the Social Investment Programme, currently in process of being approved.

Simultaneously, the Government requested UNDP to finance a project for the design,

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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formulation and evaluation of social infrastructure projects which would contribute to alleviating the most critical shortcomings through the physical improvement of health centres, schools and community centres(47 projects in education sector, 35 projects in health and 31 community centres). These construction or refurbishing projects of social infrastructure will at the same time provide an important stimulus to a stagnant labour market.

This support was initially provided by UNDP through a preparatory assistance phase which through the current revision becomes expanded into the support to the unit responsible for the design and monitoring of the social infrastructure projects to be financed from an IDB-loan in the total amount of (US)$ 36 million.

Description of project

The project will contribute to the improvement of living conditions for the most deprived parts of the population, particularly through upgrading capacity of the education and health sectors to more efficiently provide services these strata of society.

The strategy applied by the project is to directly support the Unit responsible for the design and supervision of the social infrastructure projects and through the unit's collaboration with the Ministries of Education and Health at the same time contribute to the institutional strengthening of the these two institutions.

The immediate objectives of the project are to:(a) support the organization and adequate functioning of the unit responsible for the execution of the Social Infrastructure Project; and (b) train personnel from the National Administration of Public Education and the Ministry of Public Health in the preparation of projects and the design, specifications, bidding and supervision of investment projects.

Inputs

UNDP will provide through the Government one international expert in the preparation and analysis of projects, eight national specialized consultants in analysis, programming, administration and financial management of programmes; four national consultants in the preparation and execution of projects, bidding formalities and supervision; approximately 14 national consultants for the design of the subprojects components, six specialized national consultants for the supervision of the public works; and expendable equipment.

Financial data

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Personnel	2 507 400
Equipment	64 000
Total	2 571 400

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